

Two Ways to Subtract

Name: _____

Date: _____

Numbers to 20 - solve each problem both ways.

Solve each one twice. Both ways are good ones - which felt faster for you?

1) $15 - 9 =$ _____

Way A
Count Up to Subtract

count up to the next ten

$$9 + 1 = \underline{\quad}$$

add the last ones

$$\underline{\quad} + 5 = \underline{\quad}$$

add up your jumps

$$1 + 5 = \underline{\quad}$$

Way B
Think Addition

9 plus what makes 10?

$$9 + \underline{\quad} = 10$$

10 plus what makes 15?

$$10 + \underline{\quad} = 15$$

add up your jumps

$$1 + 5 = \underline{\quad}$$

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B

2) $12 - 7 =$ _____

Way A
Count Up to Subtract

count up to the next ten

$$7 + 3 = \underline{\quad}$$

add the last ones

$$\underline{\quad} + 2 = \underline{\quad}$$

add up your jumps

$$3 + 2 = \underline{\quad}$$

Way B
Think Addition

7 plus what makes 10?

$$7 + \underline{\quad} = 10$$

10 plus what makes 12?

$$10 + \underline{\quad} = 12$$

add up your jumps

$$3 + 2 = \underline{\quad}$$

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B

3) $13 - 6 =$ _____

Way A
Take Away to Ten First

take away enough to reach the ten

$$13 - 3 = \underline{\quad}$$

take away what is left

$$\underline{\quad} - 3 = \underline{\quad}$$

Way B
Take Away Five First

take away the 5 first

$$13 - 5 = \underline{\quad}$$

then take away the other 1

$$\underline{\quad} - 1 = \underline{\quad}$$

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B

4) $14 - 6 =$ _____

Way A
Take Away to Ten First

take away enough to reach the ten

$$14 - 4 = \underline{\quad}$$

take away what is left

$$\underline{\quad} - 2 = \underline{\quad}$$

Way B
Take Away Five First

take away the 5 first

$$14 - 5 = \underline{\quad}$$

then take away the other 1

$$\underline{\quad} - 1 = \underline{\quad}$$

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B



Answer Key

Two Ways to Subtract - Numbers to 20

Every step is filled in. Check your work.

Solve each one twice. Both ways are good ones - which felt faster for you?

1) $15 - 9 = \underline{6}$

Way A
Count Up to Subtract

count up to the next ten

$$9 + 1 = \underline{10}$$

add the last ones

$$\underline{10} + 5 = \underline{15}$$

add up your jumps

$$1 + 5 = \underline{6}$$

Way B
Think Addition

9 plus what makes 10?

$$9 + \underline{1} = 10$$

10 plus what makes 15?

$$10 + \underline{5} = 15$$

add up your jumps

$$1 + 5 = \underline{6}$$

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B

2) $12 - 7 = \underline{5}$

Way A
Count Up to Subtract

count up to the next ten

$$7 + 3 = \underline{10}$$

add the last ones

$$\underline{10} + 2 = \underline{12}$$

add up your jumps

$$3 + 2 = \underline{5}$$

Way B
Think Addition

7 plus what makes 10?

$$7 + \underline{3} = 10$$

10 plus what makes 12?

$$10 + \underline{2} = 12$$

add up your jumps

$$3 + 2 = \underline{5}$$

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B

3) $13 - 6 = \underline{7}$

Way A
Take Away to Ten First

take away enough to reach the ten

$$13 - 3 = \underline{10}$$

take away what is left

$$\underline{10} - 3 = \underline{7}$$

Way B
Take Away Five First

take away the 5 first

$$13 - 5 = \underline{8}$$

then take away the other 1

$$\underline{8} - 1 = \underline{7}$$

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B

4) $14 - 6 = \underline{8}$

Way A
Take Away to Ten First

take away enough to reach the ten

$$14 - 4 = \underline{10}$$

take away what is left

$$\underline{10} - 2 = \underline{8}$$

Way B
Take Away Five First

take away the 5 first

$$14 - 5 = \underline{9}$$

then take away the other 1

$$\underline{9} - 1 = \underline{8}$$

Both ways give the same answer. Which one felt faster? ☐ Way A ☐ Way B

